

Oxford City 1, Wycombe Wanderers 0

JUST when Wycombe Wanderers appeared to be heading for their first goalless draw of the season on Saturday, their centre half Dave Bullock made an incredible error to give Oxford City the honours and three Rothmans Isthmian League, Division One, points.

It was in the 72nd minute when the blonde-haired Peter Delaway took a corner. His kick had seemingly gone too far when Alan Evans got his foot to the ball and hooked it back into the penalty area.

Bullock, thinking the ball had gone over the bye-line and thus out of play, put his hands up and caught the ball. To his astonishment referee Ward immediately pointed to the spot and Woodley blasted home the penalty to put Oxford ahead.

Wycombe were flabbergasted! They were convinced the ball had crossed the line and the decision obviously took the wind out of their sails.

But Wanderers can have few excuses about the result. Despite dominating the first half with a string of corners, they seldom looked like finding the net against an Oxford side well marshalled by centre backs John Woodley and Alan Evans.

City stood firm against the wave of attacks but they lacked punch up front and tended to waste their possession with inaccurate passing.

Too often the Wycombe midfield trio of Larry Pritchard, Terry Reardon and Mick Holifield were allowed to pick up the abundance of loose balls in midfield.

But despite their superiority, Wanderers still could not find the net. About the best effort came from Reardon in the 29th minute.

Dylan Evars, who was al-

ways struggling to get into top gear, crossed into the box where Reardon sent in a glancing header. Goalkeeper Paul Harris, however, was equal to the chance, diving full length to tip it away for a corner.

Before half time, Oxford almost snatched a surprise lead when Bullock hesitated inside his own penalty area. Delaway was quickly in with a shot but Maskell saved well, diving to his left.

City, who had almost solely used the long ball up the middle in the first half, were soon on the attack after the interval.

Steve Freeman, their bustling midfield player, drove in one vicious shot in the 49th minute only to see it whistle past the upright with Maskell struggling.

With 65 minutes gone Wycombe went close through Bullock, whose lofted header was finger-tipped over the crossbar by Harris. But in the 72nd minute came that controversial penalty which put Oxford ahead.

Understandably upset with the decision, the Blues became ragged and over-physical. Full back Paul Birdseye was penalised several times while Reardon and Marcham were spoken to by referee Ward after one scuffle.

In the last five minutes Holifield almost clinched Wycombe a point but he fired wide from a narrow angle and with the shot went Wanderers' last hopes.